

public."

Sahl also conveys a message of doubt whether the "Berlin Republic" will be aware of and will be able to

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Consul general  
Federal Republic of Germany  
Boston

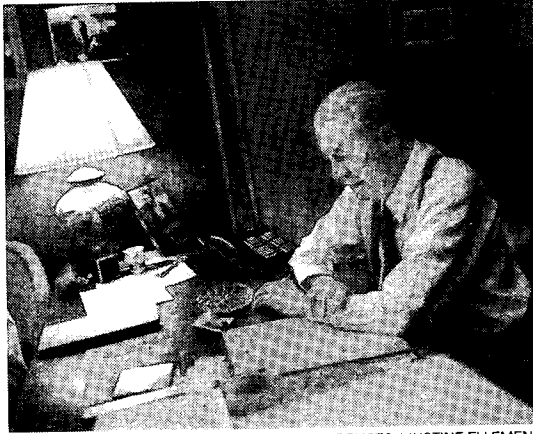
Well, the last time I looked, some of the companies in question - IBM, Compaq, Intel, and Netscape - were all doing pretty well and are still in business. I think that our government could better spend its time chasing legitimate corporate criminals instead of using its resources to help Microsoft's competitors bring it to its knees.

Maybe these companies should try to beat their business rivals with competition in the marketplace instead of wasting the taxpayers' money on a witch hunt.

M.G. BOYLE  
Hingham

## I remember my first encounter with 'Dapper'

Bravo for Joan Vennoch's effort to prevent the re-writing of Albert L. "Dapper" O'Neil's history in the wake of understandable sympathy over his current sad circumstances ("The things we shouldn't forget about Dapper," op ed, Nov. 5).



GLOBE STAFF PHOTO / JUSTINE ELEMMENT

Albert "Dapper" O'Neil in his office.

I remember my first encounter with O'Neil. I was in the Boston Municipal Criminal Court around 1969 representing several young street salesmen arrested on "obscenity" charges for peddling an underground newspaper, The Avatar, critical of the police and city officials. He came up to me at the end of the hearing and asked for my business card so that he could refer clients to me. A young and struggling lawyer at the time, I eagerly handed him my card, upon which he told me that his name was O'Neil and that he and his friends would not forget my

name, and that I'd be dealt with for representing such "scum."

Some aspects of O'Neil's personality might be viewed as charming, but I took his conduct that day as a thinly veiled threat aimed to deter me from seeking to vindicate the First Amendment rights of unpopular citizens. (We ultimately won the case in the Supreme Judicial Court.) Such bully behavior transcends the merely tasteless. I wish him health, but I think truth should not fall victim to sentiment.

HARVEY A. SILVERGLATE  
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## We're better off without him

Joan Vennoch's Nov. 5 column on the defeat of Albert "Dapper" O'Neil is a welcome voice to the curious chorus of ho-sannas that have cropped up since his defeat.

While he may represent an "old" style of Boston politics, he more clearly was an ambassador of a darker, unfriendly side. To rewrite history on a dime and suddenly thrust him upon a pedestal of honor, as many pundits have done, is disingenuous.

For too long, he was allowed to discredit the city with childish

tirades, self-serving causes, and hurtful rhetoric that served only to embrace divisiveness.

That he has been removed from office by the people of Boston says less about the end of any "legacy" and more about the intolerance of the city's voting citizens for this bigot holding an elected office. Vennoch is right: The City Council is better off without him, as are all of us who reside in Boston.

TOM WEISEND  
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